

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education  
research focused on early childhood.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. ROSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM  
education research focused on early childhood.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “\_\_\_\_\_ Act”.

5       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6       The Congress finds the following:

7               (1) The National Science Foundation has made  
8       the largest financial investment in STEM education

1 of all Federal agencies, and plays a very powerful  
2 role in helping to set research and policy agendas.

3 (2) Studies have found that children who en-  
4 gage in scientific activities from an early age develop  
5 positive attitudes toward science and are more likely  
6 to pursue STEM expertise and careers later on.

7 (3) However, the majority of current research  
8 focuses on increasing STEM opportunities for stu-  
9 dents in middle school and older.

10 (4) Women remain widely underrepresented in  
11 the STEM workforce and this gender disparity ex-  
12 tends down through all levels of education. Strategic  
13 funding of programs is needed in order to under-  
14 stand and address the root cause of this gap.

15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) **EARLY CHILDHOOD.**—The term “early  
18 childhood” applies to children from birth through  
19 the age of 10.

20 (2) **STEM.**—The terms “STEM” means  
21 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,  
22 including computer science.

1 **SEC. 4. SUPPORTING STEM RESEARCH ON EARLY CHILD-**  
2 **HOOD.**

3 In awarding grants under the Discovery Research  
4 PreK-12 program, the Director of the National Science  
5 Foundation shall consider age distribution in order to  
6 more equitably allocate funding for research studies with  
7 a focus on early childhood.